



August 17, 2010

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

This is the seventh in my series of Kitchen Cabinet updates helping you understand why government costs so much. To read the previous updates, [click here](#). These Kitchen Cabinet updates are helping to expose how state government spends your money and better explain why we're currently in a budget crisis.

Did a friend forward this e-mail to you? [Click here](#) to sign up for these Kitchen Cabinet e-mail updates.

I've been sending out these updates for over three years now, and the upcoming 2011 session will no doubt be a very important one for our state. **Sign up to receive these updates and keep on top of what's going on in Olympia.**

Department of Social and Health Services



In my series of Kitchen Cabinets looking at places state government could consider saving money, we've looked at [the University of Washington](#), [the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts](#), [the governor's office](#), [the Office of the Superintendant of Public Instruction](#), and the [Washington State Investment Board](#). This week, we'll take a look at **the mother of bloated government agencies: the Department of Social and Health Services.**

Often criticized as being too big of a government bureaucracy to function efficiently, DSHS has been the target of legislative downsizing for years. Nearly every year, Republican lawmakers sponsor bills designed to split DSHS into smaller, more manageable entities, but all attempts at bringing some level of efficiency to the department have been defeated either in the House or the Senate. So the

number of employees at DSHS continued to swell from 2005 through 2009, despite the state's current budget deficit.

According to the state Office of Financial Management, in 2009 (the last budget year) there were 19,486 people working at DSHS, and as I mentioned in my last Kitchen Cabinet, **2,974 of those people make over \$99,000 a year in pay and benefits.** That's 15.26% of the entire department. A sizeable number of those are nurses, nursing care "consultants," information technology specialists and psychiatrists.

In fact, **the state spends almost \$1.5 billion of your tax dollars annually paying workers at DSHS.** The medical director for the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration – DSHS' top earner – makes almost \$320,000 a year in pay and benefits. Each of the 64 psychiatrists employed by DSHS makes close to a quarter of a million dollars a year. 33 pharmacists make a combined total of over \$5 million in pay and benefits annually, and around 200 nursing "consultants" each make over \$130,000 a year.

As I've said before, most of the rank and file employees around the state make much less than this, but there are some major exceptions which need to be addressed. **You can find all the information about state employee salaries on the website for the [Office of Financial Management](#).**

Next week's final installment

Next week, we'll continue our series of Kitchen Cabinet updates looking at how state government could save taxpayer dollars by focusing on questionable purchases. We've looked at a number of state departments and agencies – however we haven't looked at superior and district court judges in counties which are partly funded by state government, because they all make more than \$99,000 a year. We'll wrap up by looking at where the Legislature spends your money, and we will be starting a series looking at other types of savings that could be made in state government.

State budget situation on the verge of collapse

You may have seen in the news that at the 11th hour, the federal government came through with some of the Medicaid money upon which the state budget is dependent on. Last week, the president signed a \$26 billion measure that funnels money to states to help pay for health care and education. **Washington will get \$338 million for Medicaid and around \$205 million for education.** While the federal money keeps the majority party's budget in the black, the governor says it's not enough to solve the state's budget problems. She's announced that despite the federal money, she could still make across-the-board cuts of 7 to 11 percent after the September revenue forecast is announced, predicted to be lower than expected yet again.



It is very clear that the policies passed by the majority party in the last few years have failed to recognize the severity of the financial path the state was on. **Majority lawmakers have been in abject denial of the reality that we need to rethink how government operates.**

Sex offender moves into University Place care facility



You may have seen the KOMO-TV story about the registered sex offender allowed by the state to move into an assisted care facility in University Place. The home is a state licensed adult family home and upset neighbors are asking how a sex offender can be allowed to live there.

Robert Jackson is a Level III sex offender and he was released to the state licensed adult family home meant to house vulnerable adults. **He was convicted of two rapes as well as several other violent charges, and has repeatedly threatened others and refused treatment.** [You can see Jackson's entire criminal history here.](#) **Jackson is under lifetime supervision by the Department of Corrections.** Neighbors called KOMO to find out how this was allowed.

According to DOC, there's no law against a sex offender living in an assisted care facility, especially if the offender needs assisted care as well. **But I'm planning on trying to change the law**

to prevent this from happening again. Jackson is a violent rapist with a long history of attacking adult females, and I don't believe that vulnerable adults should be mixed in with people that have a record of preying upon adults or children.

[You can watch the video of the KOMO News investigation here.](#)

Military proposal doesn't sit well in Tillicum

Last week, I was the only elected official to attend the Tillicum meeting having to do with placing a new gate to Camp Murray, the National Guard base in our district. **The Guard is proposing moving the main gate a third of a mile north, but residents of Tillicum are worried about the traffic impact it will have on their community.**

I wrote a letter to Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg last Thursday stating that I believe adequate consideration has not been given to ensure a long term solution that serves the interest of both the Washington Military Department and the Tillicum part of Lakewood. I believe moving the gate north to the Thorne Lane Exit would make it very difficult to get in and out of Tillicum. It will expose the entire length of Tillicum to increased traffic safety problems and I do not see the practicality of this new gate location.



It makes more sense to make Camp Murray's secondary gate, located at North Fort Lewis, the main entrance rather than spending over \$4 million for a new entrance. **I believe this project should be thought through carefully and not rushed through.** Future projects, such as the Cross Base Highway and future improvements on Interstate 5, should be given due consideration regarding their impact upon Tillicum and Camp Murray.

In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.

You can always find information online by visiting my website at

www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell.

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428.**



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Sincerely,

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